Pacific School of Religion Berkeley, Calif.

The Pacific

Pacific School of Religion, 1798 Scenic Ave., Berkeley, Calif.

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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE SECTION

OMEN'S FEDERATION ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Federa- n of Congregational Women of rthern California, held January 10 d 11, 1928, was a notable one for veral reasons. In the first place, the ice of president, which has been so ly filled for over half a decade by s. Herman Swartz, was taken over Mrs. Robert Brown. Mrs. Brown ll, we know, be a worthy successor the one whose devoted leadership s built us up from a society with terests vital, but limited, to a federa- n with interests limited only by our wer to serve.

In the second place, and along the me line, the meeting was notable r the spirit of internationalism nich pervaded it, not only on the ges of the program, where such les as "Building International Good- ll," discussed by friends from China, pan, and Armenia, met the eye, but nite evidently, also, in the hearts of e participants. Japanese doll-pro- cts in retrospect, and Mexican bag- ojects in prospect, Negro spirituals nd a cantata sung by a group of harming young colored girls under e direction of a talented colored mu- cian, emphasized the thought.

The outstanding thing in the meet- g, however, was a pageant. That is e name we give it, for want of a tter. But it was not really a pageant, all. It was the soul of Christian omanhood speaking to our hearts rough the inspiration of one woman. rs. Howard May, who conceived it, id that it was to show the spiritual gnificance of the Federation. It is r the Federation humbly to try to ve up to such a conception. May I y to give you an idea of it?

A dim, candle-lighted room, three insome children kneeling by their nother's side, saying their evening rayer, then softly, sweetly, singing in heir fresh child voices, "I Think When I Read That Sweet Story of ld." Against the background of that appy home scene, a long, long line of eary, burdened ones from all over he world, drearily yearning for the romised day-star. The mother is not lone as she watches the sad proces- ion. Eternal Love stands with her, nd as the last unhappy figure passes rom sight, Love says, "Who will mo- her them tonight?" The mother rec- gnizes, but resents, the challenge: "I m a Home-keeping Heart," she cries. olemnly Love replies: "The religion e will not share, we may not keep," nd vanishes.

In the next scene Love's assistants, aith, Truth, Joy, Peace, and Hope, elcome to fellowship and work the roups of the Federation—Praying, ruthseeking, Giving, Home Workers nd Friendly travelers; and as Home- eeping Heart watches them from the hadows, she suddenly realizes that ere is a means by which she may nother, not only her own little ones, ut all the world. Hope has already ent forth a cheering call to these sad nmothered hearts, but their answer, oming from the far distance, is the ame despairing cry with which the ision had opened. At once Eternal ove hands to Home-keeping Heart a orch, and in differing directions they tart to seek and to save the lost.

Meantime, to the waiting groups on the stage, comes a lovely figure, and with an eager hail they greet her—"CHRISTIANITY!" Instantly a Trumpeter sounds the inspiring chords of "In the Cross of Christ I Glory;" and Love and Home-keeping Heart, to its music, bring back to the welcoming circle those whom they had gone to seek. As Home-keeping Heart, kneeling, offers herself to the larger work, suddenly the circle parts, the workers and the work grow dim, and in the center blazes the Cross of Christ.

Only one thing could possibly have followed the pageant: The Benediction.

There was another session of the annual meeting the next day and it was full of interest. But to each of us, the greatest message and inspiration had come from Home-keeping Heart.

Executive Committee

The executive committee of the Federation met at the First Church, Oakland, January 26th. Mrs. Brown assumed the duties of her office in a way that foretold the continuance of the high ideals achieved under Mrs. Swartz.

Dr. Alma Cooke was luncheon guest. After speaking of the pleasure of being among us, she referred to the serious famine in China. Worse, however, than that, she seemed to feel the amazing lack of Christian principle among American people, and especially American young people. One of the hard criticisms that have to be met by missionaries is "If you want to preach the principles of Christ, go home to your own country where they are not lived up to." So strongly did Dr. Cooke feel this that she even debated with herself whether her place might not be here. She decided on China, but left to us the task of making America Christian.

As she was sailing the following day, Mrs. Ferrier in her own beautiful way wished her Godspeed, and gave her blossoms that would tell of our love for her and interest in her work.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BAY ASSOCIATION

Fruitvale entertained the Bay Association for the annual meeting, which was held Tuesday, January 21. The program was of exceptional interest, as it introduced several new faces to those accustomed to the work of the association. The new minister at Fruitvale, Rev. T. H. Wright, conducted the afternoon devotions and with his wife made a welcoming atmosphere, which added greatly to the good spirit of the occasion. Plymouth's new pastor, Rev. Frederick W. Hagen, gave an inspiring address on "Why I Believe in Religion," and Rev. E. F. W. Swan of Piedmont Interdenominational Church captured all by his thoughtful address on "The Divine Philosophy of the Cross." Three students from the Pacific School of Religion conducted a symposium on their impressions of Bay region Congregationalism. These speakers were W. S. Bloom of North Church, Rev. A. W. Seebart, who is serving Niles, and Gordon Winsor, who is serving Park, Berkeley. Rev. Harvey Miller of Martinez, formerly of Alameda, presided and music was provided by Walter Horace Bundy, director of the Fruitvale choir. The new moderator is Rev. C. H. Cleaves and the new assistant is Dr. John W. Buckham. Trustees elected for the class of 1928 were Messrs. C. S. Morse, E. T. Leiter, Miles B. Fisher, W. W. Furze, R. R. Perkins, A. R. Groenink. The next meeting will be in April.

SOME MIDWINTER CONFERENCE HAPPENINGS

Northern California was signally honored at this meeting in having Dr. Harley H. Gill serve as chaplain. With his usual genius and thoroughness he departed from the conventional periods of former midwinter meetings by leading us into the spirit and purpose of devotion by actual practice of the same. We were proud of him.

As Mrs. W. W. Ferrier felt it necessary to resign from the Prudential Committee of the American Board, this board elected Mrs. Robert Brown in her place.

California was also honored in the election of Dr. George F. Kenngott as the new president of the Superintendents Conference. Dr. Kenngott is much beloved by his fellows in this kind of work. He gave a capital address at one of the general sessions, describing the processes by which he came into administrative work. He has completed 15 years of excellent service in the Southern Conference. High honor belongs to him.

"Merger" is still the watchword. It was voted to merge the American Missionary with the Congregationalist on the basis of a monthly supplement giving the news of the Home Boards. Another good reason for subscribing to the Congregationalist.

"Balancing Budgets" was another war cry. Societies and conferences should aim to keep out of debt. At best they should not cut out the real missionary service. The men at the front must be considered, and compensating cuts must be made in the overhead when found necessary on the field.

We were happy to meet our office friends of other days, Dr. Hinman and Mrs. Ranney. They do not forget these conferences, though they find new and attractive forms of service elsewhere. They sent greetings to their California friends.

NEW SLIDES

The Conference office is just in receipt of a new set of slides entitled "Mission Projects." This set, as the name implies, is of interest to those who have taken a project or are planning to do so. There are sixty slides in the set, about equally divided between the work of the Homeland and Foreign Boards. While the work of the various boards may not cover your identical project, it does describe work typical of that being done by each board. We hope this set will become popular, as it deserves.

FELLOWSHIP OF PRAYER

The Northern Conference is expecting any day to receive a large shipment of the Fellowship of Prayer for 1928. Some churches have already put in their orders for shipment on arrival. If you have not done so, be sure you do not get left. Remember, Lent commences on Washington's Birthday, February 22nd.

PERSONALS

Dr. T. T. Giffen has received a flattering call to First Church, Denver, Colo. He has definitely decided to decline it and stay with the First Church in Fresno. Denver has been after him for months and from the start he has felt that his work is to be in California. His friends rejoice in his decision.

Rev. George E. Atkinson has received a most unanimous call to Loomis. He has had long service at Ceres and does not like to be pulled up by the roots for transplanted service. His reception at Loomis was such that he may be tempted to make the change.

Word comes that Rev. W. J. Johnson of Oroville is spending a few weeks at St. Helena Sanitarium with an attack of laryngitis. Mr. Milliken of Piedmont is supplying for him. He expects to be back in his pulpit for February 12.

Miss Isabelle McCausland of Kobe College spent a few days with us, speaking Sunday, January 29, at First Church, Oakland, and at Saratoga. She is seeking funds for the needed additions to their splendid institution. She expects to return in August or September.

Rev. Paul L. Corbin of Taiku, North China, arrives on the President Grant about the time of our going to press. If we can get any late news about China we will print same.

There have been disturbing dispatches about the closing of the school in Brousa. A telegram from the American Board states that they are not aware of the suspension of their work in Brousa.

AFRICA

The Mission Study theme for the year 1928-29 will be on Africa, the land of Livingstone and the Moffats. Last year a number of our churches were disappointed because they could not get the set of slides on Turkey when the study was on the Moslem World. There will be a better chance for you this coming year, because we have three sets on Africa, but don't delay too long. Bear in mind this topic, and when you want slides, make one of these on Africa your first choice. Those we have in the San Francisco office are:

Forward March of the Zulus.
Angola, the Country of the King.
Trekking Across Rhodesia.

During this year, every church in this Conference should have had at least one of these sets, and a great many will have shown all three sets.

When you take out slides, how often do you show them? One of our men took out a set and showed it three times, before different groups. If you are planning to show it Sunday night, will you have very many of your Sunday School children out, or will your young people remain for the service? Plan to get the pictures before all groups in your church. And be sure to let us know how many times you show them.

BOOKS RECEIVED

Evolution Disproved. The Evolution of Man Scientifically Disproved in fifty arguments, by Rev. William A. Williams. 125 pages, price $1.00. Published by the author, Camden, New Jersey.

LODI LOSES ITS PASTOR

The First Congregational Church of Lodi has lost a pastor whose services during the last five years have endeared him to the church and to a wide circle of friends in the community. Owing to the condition of his health, Rev. C. H. Stevens is taking a vacation from active church work, and he and his family will reside at Palo Alto for a time.

At the annual church meeting on January 13, 200 members of the congregation sat down to the last dinner to be presided over by Rev. Clarence H. Stevens. A fine musical program was followed by the business meeting, at which reports from the pastor, officers and committees indicated a healthful condition and a successful year of work. There were 28 accessions to the membership during the year. The treasurer reported a balance of $200 on hand after paying all bills. A strong Woman's Association had added $400 to the Benevolence Fund, which totaled from all organizations over $2200.

A farewell reception was held in the church Thursday evening, January 26, which was attended by over 400 friends, including pastors of other churches and members of the Exchange Club, of which Mr. Stevens has been a very popular member. After a pleasing musical program, Deacon H. E. Wetmore presented Rev. and Mrs. Stevens with a purse, and expressed in happy vein the appreciation of all their friends of the high Christian principles exemplified in their daily life, and of the many personal kindnesses which have endeared them to their people. In his reply Mr. Stevens earnestly commended the church for their faithfulness and loyalty to him and to the work of the church. Rev. Mr. Rankin of the Methodist Church spoke in behalf of the Ministers Association and expressed their joy in fellowship with him.

On Sunday, January 29, Mr. Stevens preached his farewell sermon to a church crowded to the doors. He closed with a recital of Tennyson's "Crossing of the Bar," after which he and Mrs. Stevens touched their audience by their beautiful duet, "Saved by Grace." When their friends remained to say a last word, many eyes were dimmed by tears and many tongues trembled as they gave voice to the feeling that they were losing not only a pastor but a personal friend.

CAMPBELL—The reports concerning the first year of service of Rev. J. H. Bennett at Campbell are very encouraging. It may be remembered that he returned from London last June, bringing back with him his wife and son. Mr. Bennett has now become a member of the Santa Clara Association, having secured his transfer from Dr. S. M. Berry of Memorial Hall, London.

The work at Campbell has flourished. The services are well attended morning and evening. Much attention has been given to the choral side of the worship, and also to the young people. Every Sunday morning many children attend and receive their own share in the service. Also three scout troops have been started: Sea Scouts, Scouts, and Cub Scouts, a movement in which Campbell is a pioneer. Over one hundred lads are in the three troops and Mr. Bennett is Scout Master, assisted by two other Scout Masters and two Assistant Scout Masters. Splendid gymnastic equipment has been secured for the scouts.

The missionary work has been reorganized, and apart from the senior work a "Busy Bee" for the younger people has been started by Mrs. Bennett, and a series of fortnightly missionary plays are given by the Sunday School. The Christian Endeavor meeting is now nearly forty members in strength, and studies largely according to its own curriculum.

In place of a weekly prayer meeting, there has been started a fortnightly Fellowship Supper, followed by a specially arranged program illustrating some phase of the Church activities.

CERES—One of the most effective series put on in the Ceres Church during the eight years of the pastorate of Rev. George E. Atkinson, was that of this last January, Four Memory Meetings. The members of the congregation handed in hymns and passages of Scripture dear to their memory. There were two special speakers each night, one from the older group speaking on "My Most Precious Religious Memory," and one from the young people on "As I look at life now, what do I think I want to remember fifty years hence." These were of intense interest and very practical.

To close the series the electric screen was used. When the curtains were drawn, there was shown an old melodeon which had left New York in 1850 on an old ox-cart, with Mrs. E. Gilbert, dressed in an old-fashioned dress, at the melodeon, and grouped around her were some of the young people, also in old-fashioned gowns. These young people led in the singing of the special hymns called for. It made a very impressive service. There were 108 present at this service.

THE NEW NURSES' CLASS AT WAI

Six new nurses, four girls and two boys, have just finished their probation at the mission hospital at Wai, presided over by Drs. Rose and Lester Beals. Stiff, and a little self-conscious, in their new uniforms, they are already showing marked advance in self-respect and efficiency. It is hoped that a much larger class may be formed as soon as facilities permit, for the need is great.

THE SON OF A SAVAGE—R. C. Nicholson. Abingdon Press. 75 cents.

A most moving missionary story, and a tale told simply of the brief but splendid life work of Daniel Bula of Vella Lavella Island in the Solomon group of the South Seas. It took a young Methodist pioneer missionary four years to win this first convert, but subsequent events proved it to be well worth while. Boys and girls will love incidents in the book, whilst adults will enjoy it as a study in the making of a leader for an indigenous Christian church. Won in boyhood, through medical service rendered, Daniel became successively cook-boy, companion, friend, medical-helper, teacher, preacher and missionary-deputy to Australia. Incidentally the book tells much of the ancient customs and animistic faith of these islanders and their progress under Christian influence.

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Next semester opens Aug. 20, 1928.
Herman F. Swartz, President.
California is a great place in which to study and live.

ALTURAS—The reports of the various societies presented at the annual business meeting revealed good work done and a healthy growth, with substantial balances in all the treasuries.

Four were received on confession and seven by letter at the November Communion and others have promised to present their letters early in the year.

The Women's Missionary Society raised all of the benevolences and have had interesting and educational programs during the year.

Within two weeks in December the Women's Auxiliary prepared excellent dinners for the Alturas fire department, the newly organized Rotary Club and the Alumni Association of the Modoc High School.

They also installed a new Maytag electric washing machine in the parsonage, which is highly appreciated by the pastor's wife. This tells only a small part of the activities of these active workers.

While it is impossible to tabulate intangible things, such as the arousing of new spiritual impulses, the quickening of faith, the enlargement of hope, spiritual hunger created and spiritual refreshment and achievement—shall we say that none of these things have been experienced or desired during a year of the ministry of God's word!

The membership of the church is hopeful and there is a splendid spirit of co-operation and Christian fellowship.

THE WEST COAST OF MEXICO

The directors of the Southern California Congregational Conference, at their meeting on Tuesday, January 10, 1928, with 19 out of the 27 directors present, together with the conference superintendent and treasurer and secretary of the board (Dr. John Gardner, Moderator, presiding), voted unanimously to confirm their previous action indorsing "The proposed agreement of the American Board and the Conference" regarding the assumption by the Conference of responsibility for the work of the American Board on the west coast of Mexico, including schools and churches, but excluding the Union seminary in Mexico City. They voted also to instruct the superintendent to give publicity to this agreement and the reasons therefor through "The Pacific," circulars, letters and public address.

Herewith follows a transcript from the minutes of the Conference Directors, June 9, 1927, relating to west coast of Mexico: "A special committee of the Conference, Mr. Fred M. Wilcox, Rev. H. C. Ide and Rev. A. D. Stauffacher, met with the Prudential Committee of the National Council at Omaha and reported agreement with the same as follows: "This memorandum of proposed agreement between the American Board and Southern California Conference relating to work in Mexico:

"1. The Southern California Conference hereunder assumes all responsibility for the conduct of the present American Board work in Mexico, excepting the Union work in Mexico City, but including the churches.

"2. The work thus maintained and directed, together with the Union work in Mexico City, which shall remain under the direct care of the American Board, shall be the sum total of the American Board work in Mexico.

"3. The American Board will make the same appropriation as it and the Woman's Boards have made on the average for the last three years for this work in Mexico, provided that any decrease or increase in the total receipts of the American Board shall proportionately decrease or increase the Southern California Conference.

"4. The Southern California Congregational Conference will endeavor to increase its gifts to the American Board as much as possible, and that one-half of the increase above the average of the last three years to the American Board and the Woman's Boards shall be made an additional appropriation to this (west coast) Mexican work. It is expected that there will be additional gifts from churches and individuals for the enlarged work in Mexico. The other 50 per cent of increased gifts above the average of the last three years will go for the work of the Board elsewhere.

"5. All present missionaries of the American Board may continue under the new management.

"6. New permanent appointees to Mexico, selected and appointed by the Southern California Conference, may be commissioned by the American Board, provided their papers are satisfactory to the Board.

"7. The Prudential Committee may appoint three persons to co-operate with the Southern California Conference in the conduct of the work.

"8. The American Board and the Southern California Conference shall mutually work out an arrangement that shall protect the standing and pension rights of the present missionaries under their services with the A. B. C. F. M.

"9. The American Board shall include reports of and information about the Mexican work among its published literature as work of the American Board carried on through the Southern California Conference.

"10. If this agreement is ratified by the A. B. C. F. M. and the Southern California Conference, it shall become operative and go into effect on January 1, 1928."

The directors unanimously voted approval of the same.

At a special meeting of the Conference Directors, on Wednesday, December 28, 1927, the letter was read from Rev. E. E. Day, of Whittier, questioning the authority of the directors to undertake Mexican work without the direct vote of the Conference. Other correspondence was read, including the minutes of the Conference at Pomona in 1926 and at Redlands in 1927. Then followed a direct protest in writing to the Directors from Rev. E. E. Day asking that we put off all responsibility for this work until after the annual meeting in Santa Ana in May, 1928.

It was voted: "That the proposed taking over of the Mexican work of the American Board be delayed until July 1, 1928, conditional on the formal approval of the Conference at its May meeting."

It was voted: "That the Committee on Mexican Affairs shall continue their co-operation with the American Board to the fullest extent, that the plans already made for work on the west coast of Mexico shall be conserved looking toward the ratification of the plans of the directors by the Conference in May."

It was voted: "That we ask the Women's Board to take up the option and, if possible, buy the lot at Mazatlan to be used for school purposes."

Herewith follows a brief statement regarding the relation of the Conference to the American Board concerning the matter: The minutes for the San Diego Conference, 1924, page 15, makes the first reference to the "need of the west coast of Mexico for some

k in higher education. The Conce voted that the Board of Dirors appoint a committee to investe this need."

ne minutes for the Pomona Conce, 1926, pages 45-46, give the rt of the committee and the reson as adopted by the Conference, ollows: "Whereas, Southern Calia is vitally interested in our deinational work in Mexico and it is ely related to our welfare: Be it lved, that we recommend to the ual meeting of the State Confer- that the Board be instructed to ive from the A. B. C. F. M. any posals in line with their overtures s asking for co-operation with the cational work of the Board and the nen's Boards on the west coast of ico, it being distinctly understood no present funds of the Confer- be used for this purpose and the work be supported by appro-tions of the A. B. C. F. M. and nen's Boards in an amount at least al to their present appropriations by special gifts secured for this pose.

This work is to be educational, the purpose of training leaders the work of education in Mexico.

This recommendation is made at time so that in case it seems to plan this work in the next r it can be done."

he directors have been acting un- the authorization of the above olution, which was to give the di-ors authority to make mutually sfactory arrangements with the dential Committee of the American rd and the recommendation was le by the Conference at that meet- in May, 1926, so that in case it med wise to plan this work in the t year it could be done.

r. James L. Barton, secretary of American Board, was specifically ited to attend the Redlands Conence, in order that the directors ht have a face to face discussion h him regarding the whole situa-. In his addresses he referred apvingly to the proposed arrangents. The Conference Directors had eeting with him at Redlands. The utes of the Conference Directors May 10, 1927, read as follows: "Dr. ton made definite recommendations regard to plans including the seing of an outstanding man of cole president caliber, to go to Mexico study the question and formulate a n. He suggested that probably thern California should furnish one possibly two men for the work."

t the same meeting it was voted: hat a committee of three, Mr. Fred Wilcox, Rev. H. C. Ide and Rev. D. Stauffacher, meet with the Prut'al Committee of the American ard at Omaha." That committee t with the Committee on Papal nds from the Prudential Committee the American Board at Omaha. ese committees unanimously agreed on the following, which, in turn, s unanimously approved by the Prutial Committee of the American ard at an unusually largely atded meeting (see copy of agreent printed above).

At this meeting of the Prudential mmittee Drs. James L. Barton, ewer Eddy and Enoch F. Bell, toher with many others, spoke in vor of the arrangement. Indeed, Enoch Bell said it was the first of light and hope that they had en with regard to the work on the st coast of Mexico.

t appeared that no official representative, employed officer or otherse of the American Board had visd the west coast of Mexico for sevl years. Indeed, Dr. Barton had t visited it for nearly 20 years. The nerican Board, with its headquarrs in Boston, seemed unable to have ose contacts with this work.

At the meeting of the Conference Directors as constituted by the Redlands Conference, June 9, 1927, the following persons were present: The Moderator, Rev. John Gardner; Revs. P. F. Schrock, H. B. Mowbray, W. H. Hopkins, J. H. Hutchins, R. B. Larkin, S. A. Norton, E. D. Gaylord, William Forshaw, Lloyd C. Douglas, A. S. Donat, Messrs. W. G. Farndale, Blake Franklin, A. M. Dole, R. D. Brown, C. E. Spaulding, Mesdames Florence D. Searles, J. S. Edwards, C. E. Richards, Fred Doolittle, G. H. Schulte, Miss Emily M. Barrett, Superintendent George F. Kenngott, Treasurer Fred M. Wilcox and Scribe Samuel H. Hitchcock were also present.

The transcript for the minutes of that meeting reads as follows: "West Coast of Mexico: A special committee of the Conference, Mr. Fred M. Wilcox, Rev. H. C. Ide and Rev. A. D. Stauffacher, met with the Prudential Committee of the National Council at Omaha, and reported agreement with the same as follows": (This refers to the agreement printed above.)

The Directors unanimously voted approval of the same. Voted that we ask the American Board to send Rev. Clarence Neff to the Mexican Conference to be held June 25th. In the meantime it was voted to continue the Conference Committee."

At the meeting of the Conference Directors on September 13th, 1927, the following persons were present: Revs. John Gardner, J. H. Hutchins, Ralph B. Larkin, Perry F. Schrock, Lloyd C. Douglas, E. D. Gaylord, Wm. Forshaw, Stephen A. Norton, W. H. Hopkins, H. B. Mowbray, A. S. Donat; Messrs. W. G. Farndale, C. E. Spaulding; Mesdames G. H. Schulte, J. S. Edwards, F. Doolittle, C. E. Richards, L. Wilson, C. L. Cliff, F. W. Powers, Florence D. Searles and Miss Emily M. Barrett; also Superintendent George F. Kenngott, Treasurer Fred M. Wilcox, Extension Secretary Paul B. Waterhouse and Scribe Samuel Hitchcock.

The transcript from the minutes of that meeting, referring to the West Coast of Mexico, reads as follows: "Mr. Fred M. Wilcox, Chairman, reported the magnitude of the work with four schools and one dozen or more churches and that the Committee had recommended survey by three individuals to carefully consider the work after the Conference on Spanish speaking work in Los Angeles on Saturday, October 22nd."

The particular reasons for seeking the consummation of the arrangements long under discussion as of January 1st, 1928, are, briefly, as follows: Dr. and Mrs. John Howland, who were appointed by the American Board to the work in Mexico in 1882, have left that work and are now resident at Claremont; Dr. and Mrs. Alfred C. Wright, appointed in 1885, are giving up their relation to the Mexican Mission at this time; Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd L. Lorbeer have notified the Board of their purpose to leave the Mission in the near future; Rev. H. C. Champe, resident at Mazatlan, appointed in 1922, seems to be the only ordained American missionary left. Miss Oliver has left the school at Mazatlan. Three women, the Misses Parsons, Wright and Smith are left with practically sole responsibility for the four schools. Two helpers have been found, —Miss Frances Scott of Alhambra has gone to Mazatlan, taking the place of Miss Oliver and Miss Bertha Allen of Pasadena has gone to Guadalajara.

The Mission on the West Coast of Mexico remains a Mission of the American Board. The Conference turns over to the American Board the thirty percent of the apportionment for the general work of the Board. The churches and missionary societies in New England and elsewhere, who have work in the West Coast of Mexico as "projects," continue to have such relationship. The funds for the Conference work are used for the purpose designated. The appropriation of the American Board for the work on the West Coast of Mexico remains as heretofore about $42,000.00, exclusive of the Union work in the City of Mexico. The sole difference seems to be that the Conference takes a more intimate interest in the missionary and religious educational work among Mexicans on both sides of the border.

It was evidently expected by the American Board and by the Conference Directors that as result of this class relationship, certain individuals and at least some churches would increase their gifts to the American Board as well as to the work on the West Coast of Mexico. Any increase from the gifts of the churches for the American Board above the average of the last three years was to go to the American Board, but fifty percent of that increase was to be for the enlargement for the work on the West Coast of Mexico. Gifts from individuals and organizations, within or without the church, especially designated for the work on the West Coast of Mexico, would go for it.

Written reports from Mr. Fred M. Wilcox, Chairman of the Committee; Mrs. E. B. Allen, President of the Southern California Women's Missionary Society, and Rev. Luther Freeman, Vice-Moderator of the Conference, who recently visited our schools and missions in Mexico, prove interesting reading.

In May of 1925, Revs. Lawrence Wilson, Pastor of the Mission Hills Church, San Diego and H. C. Ide, Pastor of the Church at Redlands, visited the West Coast of Mexico, together with Mrs. W. W. Ranney, representing the W. B. M. P. Subsequently, Rev. A. D. Stauffacher and Mr. J. S. Edwards went in Hubert C. Herring's party.

Herewith follows a transcript from the minutes of the Conference Directors at their meeting September 13, 1927: "It was voted that we set aside $600.00 toward the expenses of this Committee on 'West Coast of Mexico' for visit to Mexico and survey of work of American Board in Mexico."

As result of that action and recommendations by the Conference Committee on "West Coast of Mexico," consisting of fifteen representative persons, Mr. Fred M. Wilcox, Mrs. E. B. Allen, President of the Southern California Congregational Women's Missionary Society and Rev. Luther Freeman, Vice-Moderator of the Conference, went to Mexico. It was understood that these funds were advanced by the Conference and would be returned in anticipation of funds to be raised for the work on the West Coast of Mexico. These advances have been paid by remittances from interested persons and churches.

No money whatever was appropriated from the Conference treasury to purchase a parcel of land near a missionary's house in Mexico. Rev. H. C. Champe occupies a house belonging to the Mission in Mazatlan. Mr. Wilcox was impressed, as were other members of the Commission, with the importance of acquiring the piece of land adjoining this house for the erection of a much needed school building, toward which the Women's Board of the Pacific has been raising money. Mr. Wilcox secured an option until the middle of January for $25.00 at his own risk.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors, December 13, 1927, it was: "Voted: that we approve the action of our Committee in taking an option on property adjoining the home of our resident missionary, Rev. H. C. Champe, at Mazatlan, Mexico, for the school, funds advanced by the Conference, to be repaid from funds raised later for the West Coast of Mexico work."

At the special meeting of the Conference Board of Directors, December 28, 1927, it was: "Voted: that we ask the Women's Board to take up the options, and, if possible, buy the lot at Mazatlan to be used for school purposes." Thus relieving the Conference Directors of any financial responsibility in the matter.

At the meeting of the Prudential Committee of the American Board in Chicago, January 18, 1928, it was voted to purchase the site in Mazatlan with the funds to be made available by the W. B. M. P.

Rev. Wm. E. Strong, D.D., Secretary of the American Board, writes as follows regarding the matter: "Now I am passing it on to you, recognizing that at that time the Southern California Conference, will, we hope, be directing the work in our Mexico Mission and appreciating that it is not only right but most appropriate that with your headquarters in Los Angeles you should aid in this matter. While I am writing let me say that I am sorry for the compelled delay, which you have reported to us in the taking over of the work as was agreed on January 1. I hope that the postponement will not involve any overturning of the plans and that by the time of your annual meeting in May it may be possible to quickly consummate the change."

My Reasons for Believing That It Would Be Well for Our Conference to Assume the Direction of Our Congregational Work in Mexico.

By Luther Freeman

Pastor of Pilgrim Church, Pomona

First—We are spending some $40,000 a year on the West Coast of Mexico and are making no progress in developing centers of religious influence. Our schools are no larger than they were ten years ago and we are not increasing our church membership. In fact, we seem to be decreasing in our membership. With the rapid economic development of the West Coast, we should be growing. I believe we are wasting sacred money.

Secondly—As the work has been managed of late years, it has had no adequate oversight from headquarters. Faithful men and women have been doing their best but lacking a unified program and direction from headquarters, they have failed to make progress.

Third—I am convinced that a more carefully worked out program with adequate supervision, such as might be given from our favorable geographical location, would make it possible for us to show worthwhile results. I believe that because I found other missions, no more favorably located, have been growing very rapidly and now have a large number of strong, entirely self-supporting, flourishing churches, as well as schools which, through their alumni, have changed the whole atmosphere of some of the large centers of population.

I feel so strongly about this that I say frankly, unless we can show very much larger results within the next five years, we ought to withdraw. It is not right to use the sacrificial money of the church without showing accomplishments in some measure commensurate with the outlay.

By John B. Toomay

Pastor of Bethel Congregational Church, Ontario.

First, because we are one of the Strongest of all the Congregational Conferences in the United States and much the strongest on the Mexican border. Our geography alone makes this Conference such a close neighbor of Mexico and her problems that it

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lays upon our sense of Christian brotherhood a corresponding responsibility.

Second, our position on the Mexican border and our association with the Mexicans in industry, education and religion mark this Conference as one peculiarly fitted to be the pioneer in such an international adventure of faith. We are here in what was once Mexican territory and has in it today the second Mexican city of the world. They come and go and our people know them industrially and personally. We already have organized churches of Protestant Mexicans and their exceptional students have been trained in Pomona College. This places the Conference in a very advantageous position to understand the Mexican mind and needs.

Third, when the missionaries from Mexico come home, they spend their furloughs largely in Southern California; and when they retire, they come to Claremont to live. Moreover, the pastors and teachers in our local Mexican churches have many of them worked in Mexico. This tends to erase the international line in our thinking, and makes the Latin work on the West Coast of the United States and on the West Coast of Mexico a unit.

Fourth, we need the work to develop the Christian spirit in our own living and giving in California.

This morning's paper tells us that our income tax in California is the second in the nation. That of New York alone is larger than ours. We are living in a land that was settled by the Mexicans before the Americans came. What people is under a greater obligation to be generous in wealth and wisdom to West Coast of Mexico and Lower California than the people of Upper California?

Every consideration of right and justice, every appeal of brotherhood, every desire for international goodwill, should impel us to gladly accept this new task as an enlarged opportunity for service in the name of Christ.

The favorable attitude of Bethel Congregational Church toward the Mexican work in Ponoma Valley is sufficient assurance of the way in which it will meet this larger undertaking.

Mexico and the Southern California Conference

By Mrs. Lillian Manker Allen

President of Southern California Congregational Women's Missionary Society.

Perhaps the most outstanding impressions of a three-weeks' sojourn in Mexico were, first, the possibilities of the artistic, music-loving Mexican people when educated and trained for leadership; second, the poverty and need of the masses of a people 60% illiterate; third, the widespread efforts of the government to meet this need through popular education, 3000 schools having been established during the past five years, many of which however as yet are under incompetent leadership; fourth, the strategic opportunity of Protestantism, the Catholic churches being closed to the priesthood through their refusal to register their allegiance to the government, while the Protestant pastors, having complied with government regulations, are allowed to continue their work; and lastly, the fewness of our own workers and the smallness of our work on the West Coast, the district assigned to our denomination.

We believe that the proposal of the American Board that the Southern California Conference take over the supervision of our West Coast work is sound and wise, and that under this supervision our work in Mexico could be greatly strengthened in a short period of time. Workers could be more easily found here, the expense of sending would be less, and the multiplicity of contacts on both sides the border would naturally strengthen the ties between the two countries.

The lines across the border are here more closely interwoven by both Americans and Mexicans, than in any other section of the country. Many of our people have been in Mexico or have relatives residing there for business reasons. Similarly, we found many outstanding Mexicans who had been to school in this country or who had relatives living here.

I could name off-hand ten or more California young people, mostly from Pomona College, who have been workers in our Mission schools in Mexico during the past few years; and there are perhaps fifty residents of this section, mostly retired, who have been missionaries in Mexico. The presence also of many Spanish-speaking people among us, among whom we have a definite home missionary task, helps create an atmosphere in which it is easier to find workers. One of our American Board teachers in Mazatlan was obliged to come home in December for health reasons, leaving Miss Parsons alone. By the middle of January a graduate of Redlands University was on the spot to take her place. This could hardly have been achieved so promptly from so distant a base as Boston.

Then, too, the proximity of the field makes it possible for workers to come to California frequently for vacations, thus giving unusual opportunity for contacts between the Conference churches and the workers. Nine out of our eleven workers now in Mexico either claim California as home, or have recently spent a vacation here.

Closer association will also help in our Americanization work on this side of the line. Permit just one illustration. Pastor Gutierrez of Culiacan gave us the address of his sister living in Pasadena. Upon our return we called upon her and found her an attractive, intelligent young woman living in a well-kept home. Her husband had to interpret for her, as she spoke no English. Their child is a native-born American whose language will be English. It was an easy matter to call up the teacher appointed by the Pasadena Board of Education for home work among Mexican women and put her in touch with this family.

Perhaps one of the most vital reasons for supervision by the Southern California Conference is the closer association of the nineteen little native churches scattered from Hermosillo to Guadalajara, widely separated even from each other, with a stronger fellowship, through occasional visits from the Conference Superintendent. Pastor Gutierrez brought twenty-seven of his flock to meet the train for half an hour of fellowship. We knew scarcely half a dozen words of each others' language, but how their dark faces lighted when we gave them the greetings of more than a hundred churches in Southern California! It is not easy to be a Protestant in Mexico, but it will be to them a comforting inspiration to feel that close by are neighbors who understand, and who are ready to join hands with them in prayer and sympathy.

I have not spoken of the quality of our workers there, few in number but gifted and consecrated. Nor of the needs of the work, of little churches in rented quarters that must soon conform with government requirements and have a place of worship of their own, of the great need of a suitable building for our school at Mazatlan. These needs will be met as our people come to know of them.

It should be fully understood that both the work in Mexico and our own obligations for work in other lands are safeguarded by the terms of the transfer of supervision. The Mexican work will be financed, as always, through apportionment gifts from the whole country to the American Board, which will turn over each year to the Southern California Conference for administration a sum equal to the average of the past three years for Mexico. Eastern churches with projects in Mexico are to keep them as before, and we are to keep our projects in other countries as before. If we increase our church apportionment gifts in Southern California, half the increase will go to Mexico, and doubtless with increased interest, special gifts will be forthcoming as in other countries, to meet special needs such as I have mentioned.

This seems to us a great step forward in confidence and co-operation—a step worthy of the far-seeing statesmanship of modern Christianity.

GUADALAJARA, MEXICO

Letter From Miss Bertha H. Allen

This is my fourth day in Guadalajara and I already feel very much at home, as there are so many things which remind me of Foochow.

When the telegram came from the board approving my coming down for six months, Miss Scott and I were delighted that we could come part way together. That was Friday afternoon. The next morning we found that the train between here and Mazatlan was not running, so Monday morning I started out alone by way of El Paso and Miss Scott started Tuesday morning via Nogales! I hope she had as pleasant a trip as I did and arrived as ready for work.

Miss Wright and Mr. Neff tried to meet me, but were told the train was two hours late, when I came into the station only an hour late. I was fortunate in finding a man who knew of the school and put me into an auto. As I came into the ironwork gate I could see the children having a gay time playing basketball in the patio, so I knew that I had arrived. That was Thursday night, less than a week from the time the telegram came, so I am still feeling a little breathless!

I feel more than ever that this experience is going to be a most helpful one to me. The life with these fine Mexican teachers, the problems of religious training under limitations such as we may later meet in China, the chance to have a little share in boosting kindergarten work here, the clear air and sunny days, all make me glad I am here.

Today I began teaching, one English class being over at the boys' school and three here. But the class I am going to enjoy the most is of three girls here who will graduate from the normal course in June. They understand English and I am giving them a telescoped course in kindergarten methods, with our own kindergarten as the laboratory. I think it will be helpful to them in primary work, as much that they have had suited for older children.

The Instituto Colon is beautifully arranged for a school, with a large tiled court in the center and rooms opening off wide verandas all around. Our bedrooms and living rooms are on the second floor along with the school dormitory rooms. These wide tiled verandas are much like garden pergolas, with rich green ferns, palms and potted plants all around. It is always possible to find a sunny spot among these ferns to study, or we may prefer the shady spots in a few weeks.

Thursday night, my first meal here was a privilege, for it was the regular monthly teachers meeting, held this time at Mr. and Mrs. Lorbeer's, and including a jolly lap supper, with games afterward. The teachers from both schools were there and it was a fine group of young people. Here I first met those of whom I had heard from my father and mother when they returned from their Mexican trip in November. It is good to feel that they have met the friends here and that they stayed in the very same room that is now mine!

Yesterday I visited the two Church Sunday Schools. Well organized, with enthusiastic teachers from the two schools and clean, orderly groups of little folks, they present wonderful opportunities for influence. In one of the churches one class was taken outside under a palm shelter, while the other two shared the room. The other Sunday school was held in the pleasant patio of the pastor's house. Here about 50 children of the younger classes had their work, including very interesting handwork, which was supervised by Mrs. Lorbeer, some marching to music and a little closing prayer service. They are trying to follow the Sunday school hour in this way as a sort of children's church.

The preparatory girls here at the Instituto Colon gave a most interesting program in honor of Miss Wright on Saturday evening, working it all out themselves. The room was full of invited guests. It made me think of the programs which our Foochow kindergarten girls so often give. The same co-operation and happy spirit was there. Miss Wright had already celebrated two birthdays that week but the preparatory girls wanted to give her another. They presented her with a pretty little case of toilet articles. No wonder they all love her so, she is a dear!

It is fine to be in a mission station where all the American members can go to ride together in one Ford! The Lorbeers own the car which gave us all such a lovely country ride yesterday afternoon. We left the car at the top of a deep canyon and spent three and a half hours climbing down to the rushing river in the bottom and out again. It was a beautiful place. Thanks to these good co-workers I have seen a good deal of this lovely city and the surrounding country already and am looking forward to seeing more.

I have a carefully planned schedule with plenty of time to play, when I once get properly accustomed to it and I am going to remember that I must be in the best of physical condition in August so I can go back to China, if it is planned that way. I can only hope that the little Chinese that I know will survive a layer of Spanish!

More than ever before I realize how the world is all one brotherhood under the Fatherhood of God.

INSTITUTE AT RIVERSIDE

The continuation of our report of the Institute of International Relations which was to appear in this issue, is held over until the March issue.